GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2763
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2006
ILLEGAL TRADE
Singh Shri Ganesh Prasad;Yadav Shri Ram Kripal

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

to the reply given to Unstarred question No. 3194 on December 14, 2005 and state the details of the action so far taken or proposed to be taken against such companies under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

The latest details of the case and action taken, after the issuance of Show cause notices to the four companies, namely AT & T, MCI, Equant and BT, are given as undr:-

In reply to show cause notice of DOT, M/s AT & T Communication Services India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi has stated that AT & T has had a bilateral relationship with VSNL and more recently, with Bharti, Reliance and Data Access to facilitate International Long Distance connectivity between India and the U.S. and AT & T has entered into a contractual arrangement with VSNL, whereby VSNL appointed AT & T India as the SSO (Services Support Organization) under the agreement which acts as the agent on behalf of VSNL.

In reply to show cause notice of DOT, M/s MCI World Com India (P) Ltd., New Delhi has stated that VSNL, Reliance and Bharti are MCI`s licensed India Partners for international end to end services.

In reply to show cause notice of DOT, M/s Equant Network Services International Ltd., Dublin (Ireland) has stated that M/s Equant has in placed a Network Access Agreement (NAA) with Bharti Tele-Ventures Limited (earlier Bharti Infotel Ltd.). As per the NAA, Equant Multinational Corporate customers with operations in India are serviced under Bharti`s portfolio of Authority. Through Bharti, Equant customers in India are provided access to Equant`s private, corporate global network.

In reply to show cause notice of DOT, M/s BT Plc (the ultimate parent company of BTIPL) has stated that it has through its subsidiary entity, BT Global Services, entered into an arrangement in India with Bharti Tele-ventures Limited (`BTVL`). Under that arrangement, BTVL is the party providing connectivity and telecom. Services in India thereby enabling the Indian sites of BT`s global customers to connect to BT`s Global Network located outside India. In any area in which BTVL is unable to provide the local link to the (Multi Site Organizations) MSO, it arranges the link through another licensed operator. The network in India is operated by BTVL, manned by its staff and BTVL provides/arranges local access for the MSOs.

Action Taken: After getting the replies of M/s AT & T, M/s Equant and M/s MCI, letters were issued to M/s VSNL, Bharti Infotel Limited, Reliance Infocomm Limited and Data Access Limited for providing details of contract agreements, if any, made with AT & T, MCI Worldcom and Equant group of companies for selling, provisioning and operating International Telecom services. They were also asked to mention the clause of the license agreement under such contracts were made.

Replies of M/s VSNL, Bharti Infotel Limited and Reliance Infocomm Limited have been received. For some more queries letters have been issued to M/s VSNL and Bharti Infotel Limited on 07-03-2006 to reply within 7 days. Reply to the same has been partly received from Bharti, and no reply has been received from VSNL so far. Also letters have been issued to M/s BT for more details. M/s BT has asked time up to 17th March, 2006 and the reply to same has been received, which is being examined.

As the matter is being examined, it is too early to comment on the action to be taken against these Telecom Companies.